MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFARS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) Consequent upon the gradual rationalisation of the interest rates structure by Reserve Bank of India during the last few years, the rate of interest on National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD's) refinance has been revised in consultation with RBI and fixed at 11.5 per cent p.a. with effect from 1.4.1993. As per NABARD's instructions, the Co-operative Bank (DCCBs) will be required to finance the working capital requirements of handloom weavers societies at the same rate of interest at which the refinance is available to them (i.e. 11.5 per cent p.a.). The operational expenses of the financing banks are expected to be met out of the interest subsidy provided by the Government of India|State Governmonts. NABARD is examining separately representations received recently from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Governments for reconsideration of the interest rate on refinance.

Interim Relief to Pensioners

509. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN.

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Miniser of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an interim relief of Rs. 100|- p.m. has been allowed on a uniform basis to all the Central Government employees w.e.f. 16th September, 1993.

(b) if so, what is the basis thereof?

(c) whether it is a fact that no intedim relief has been sanctionod in favour of the Central Government pensioners who are governed by the formula as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission;

(d) what is the basis for denying interim relief to the Central Government pensioners;

(e) whether there is a proposal under Government consideration to grant interim relief to the pensioners; and

(f) if so, the time by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Staff Side of the National Council of the Joint Consultative Machinery had been domanding setting up of a permanent Wage Review Body as recommended by the Fourth Central Pay Commission. After discussions with the Staff Side of the JCM, Interim Relief of Rs. 100|- p.m. was sanctioned to all Central Government employees w.e.f. 1th September, 1993.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Interim chief had never been sanctioned to the Central Government pensioners in the past when the same was sanctioned to the Central Government employees.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Corruption in the Central Board of Excise and Customs

510. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been growing corruption in the Central Board of Excise and customs besides delays in redressing the Public grievances and that an official group was set-up to recommend ways and means to solve the malady,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the recommendations.

suggestions made by the official group to check the growing corruption in C. B. E. C; and

(c) what action has been taken proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No Sir, No official group has been set up, as on such need has been felt. All complaints relating to corruption and public grievances are attended to by the Central Board of Excise and Customs promptly.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Allocation of Special Drawing Rights

511. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IMF has suggested to Government to take early steps to lighten bank liquidity and to ensure unification of its dual, exchange rate regime;

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestions made by the IMF and whether Government have taken any decision thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the IMF management is suppoprting a new allocation of Special Drawing Rights. and

(d) if so, what are the grounds therefor stating the reaction of Government on the matter as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) As a part of its starategy of macroeconomic stabilisation and reform, tho Government has taken steps to give a boost to industrial production and exports. In this context, steps have been taken to make available larger bank credit to the private sector (through reduction in SLR, lending rates etc.) and also to unify the exchange rate (announced in Budget for 1993-94). The strategy of the Govt. was supported by the IMF with financial assistance under the stand-by arrangement which concluded in June, 1993. Letters written by the Finance Minister to the Managing Director of IMF dated August 27, 1991 and June 2, 1992 have already been placed on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The IMF management is considering a fresh allocation of SDR roughly of the order of SDR 36 billion due to the increased global requirement arising out of integration of formerly Centrally Planned Economies into the World trading system. India has supported the management's proposal.

Appointments on Compassionate grounds in State Bank of India

512. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the rules of the Associate Banks of State Bank of India for making appointments on humanitarian/compassionate grounds, the details thereof;

(b) the number of voluntarily retired employees who have been reappointed by the State Bank of Indore during 1988 to 1991 and 1992 till date, the details year-wise;

(c) whether the rules were followed by the Bank Management, if not the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that certain benefits which are given to the re-employed as a fresh candidates, are not applicable to a fresh employee in the Bank;

(e) if so, the reasons for giving such benefits which are given in the cases who are "re-instated employees" only;

(f) whether any action has been taken against those officers who had violated rules; if not reasons therefor;

(g) the number of representation that have been received from the